

REMARKS

Claims 3-9 and 11-26 are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 23-26 have been added. Claims 16-22 have been allowed.

Responsive to the Examiner's objections regarding the Drawings, Applicants submit herewith replacement sheets of formal drawings wherein, in Fig. 1, reference numeral "176" has been changed to "76", and in Fig. 6, reference numeral "76" has been changed to "176".

The Examiner made the following claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b): Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 14 and 15 over U.S. Patent No. 5,820,458 to Lai ("Lai '458"); Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 over U.S. Patent No. 3,627,442 to Brandt ("Brandt '442"); and Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 over Japan Patent No. 1-177499 ("JP '499"). The Examiner objected to Claims 3-6 and 11-13 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated that same would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner allowed Claims 16-22.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 3 in independent form to incorporate substantially the limitations of canceled Claim 1, and have amended Claims 4 and 9 to depend therefrom. Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate substantially the limitations of canceled Claims 1 and 2. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claim 10, and Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend therefrom. Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claim 10. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent Claims 3, 5, 6, 11, and 12, as well as Claims 4, 7-9 and 13-15 which depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent Claim 23 is patentable over the references applied by the Examiner, because each of the applied references fails to disclose a blower housing including a first housing member, a second housing member including a base wall having an inlet opening and a first extension portion extending angularly away from the base wall, and a third housing member including a second extension portion cooperating with the first extension portion to define an outlet opening, as called for in new independent Claim 23.

By contrast, Lai '458 discloses a blower housing including a substantially planar base 21, a curved air guiding box 30, and a substantially planar motor base 50. Brandt '442 discloses housing 11 including substantially planar end wall members 12 and 13, and curved sheet 14, and JP '499 discloses a blower housing including substantially planar members 21 and 23, and curved sheet 25.

Applicants further respectfully submit that new independent Claim 25 is also patentable over the references applied by the Examiner, because each of such references fails to disclose a blower housing including a first housing member, a second housing member including a first extension portion with a curved end, and a third housing member including a second extension portion with a curved end, the first and second extension portions cooperating with one another to define an exhaust transition having a circular outlet defined by the curved ends, as called for in new independent Claim 25.

By contrast, Lai '458 discloses a housing having a single cover 60 which defines a circular outlet hole 61, Brandt '442 discloses housing 11 having a rectangular-shaped outlet, and JP '499 also discloses a housing having a rectangular-shaped outlet.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent Claims 23 and 25, as well as Claims 24 and 26 which depend therefrom, respectively, are patentable over the references which have been applied by the Examiner.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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Application Serial No. 10/623,723
Amendment dated December 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated October 19, 2004

Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam E. Cox
Registration No. 46,644

Attorney for Applicants

AFC:mt

BAKER & DANIELS
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 260-424-8000
Facsimile: 260-460-1700

Enc. Return Postcard

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 10, 2004

ADAM F. COX, REG. NO. 46,644

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

December 10, 2004

Date

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached ten replacement sheets are formal drawings which replace the original ten sheets of informal drawings. The replacement sheets also include changes to Figs. 1 and 6. In Fig. 1, the reference numeral "176" has been changed to "76". In Fig. 6, the reference numeral "76" has been changed to "176".

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (10)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

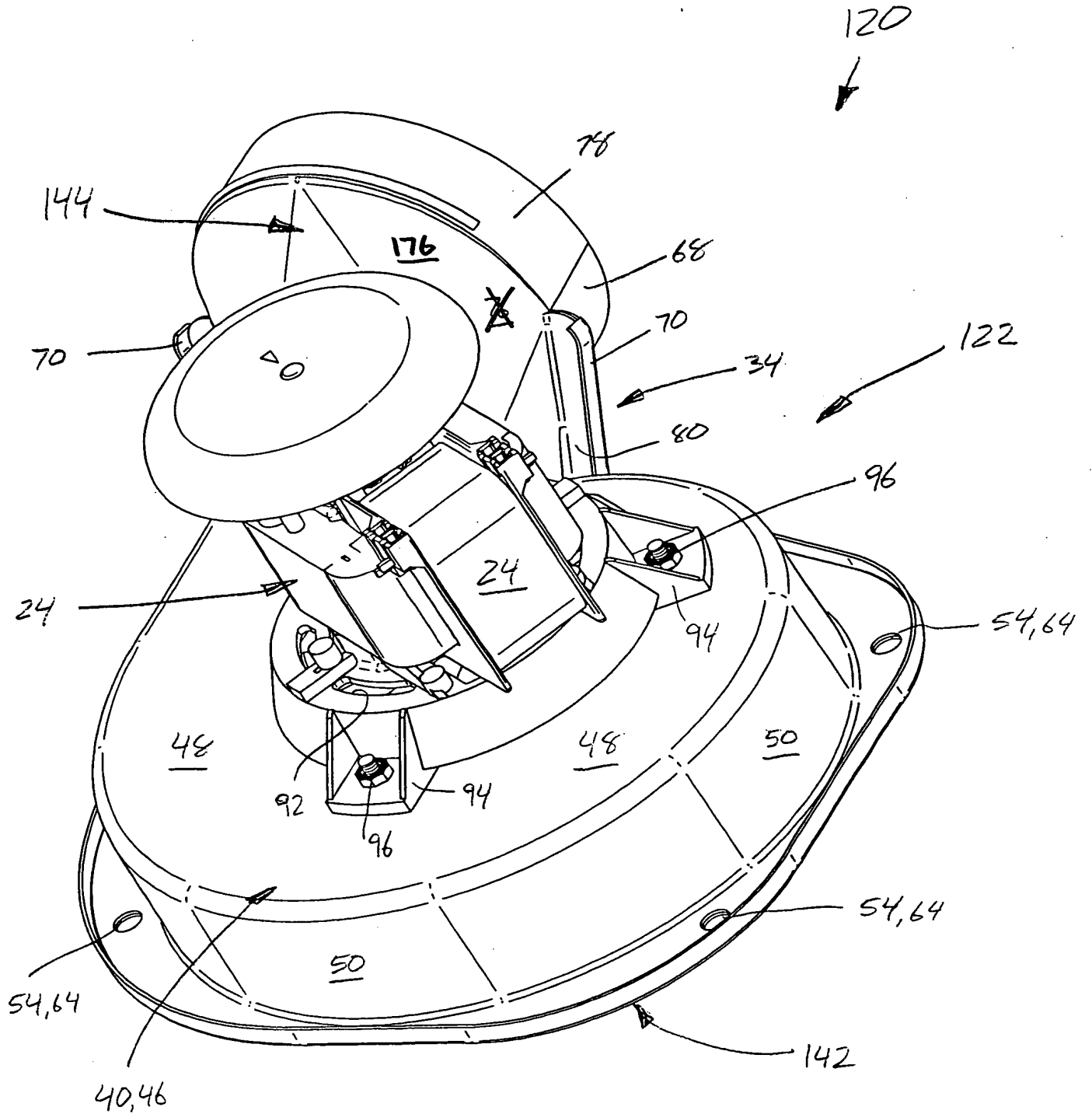


Fig. 6